

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE CHARLES R. BREHMER

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Charles R. Brehmer of the Kern County Superior Court.

The commission determined that Judge Brehmer should be publicly admonished for misconduct relating to the judge's 2008 campaign for judicial office. Judge Brehmer violated the Political Reform Act (Act) by receiving cash contributions in excess of \$100, failing to disclose the true source of a \$15,000 loan to the campaign, failing to disclose \$9,000 in contributions on a pre-election campaign statement, failing to timely file three semi-annual campaign statements, and failing to deposit the \$15,000 campaign loan from his campaign treasurer into the campaign committee's bank account and instead depositing it into his personal bank account. The judge admitted three of the violations in a stipulation with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) wherein the judge also agreed to pay a \$5,500 fine. The additional violations, not addressed in the FPPC stipulation, were found by the commission. The FPPC determined, and the commission concurs, that there was no evidence of any intent to conceal information from the public on the part of Judge Brehmer. In the commission's view, the violations of the Act were the result of a failure to oversee sufficiently the work of an inexperienced campaign treasurer handling the campaign's reporting requirements. The commission found, however, that Judge Brehmer's multiple failures to comply with his campaign reporting obligations undermined the Political Reform Act's basic purpose of ensuring that voters may be fully informed about campaign receipts and expenditures and that improper purposes may be inhibited. The commission determined that the judge's failure to obey the Act's requirements in his campaign for judicial office constitutes conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute.

The public admonishment is available on the commission's website at www.cjp.ca.gov (under "Press Releases" and "Public Discipline 1961 – Present") and from the commission's office.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is Mr. Lawrence J. Simi of San Francisco, California.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the commission's website.